

In the Claims

1-14. (cancelled)

15. (previously presented) A process for ignition of combustion of fuel in a combustion space of an engine, comprising the steps of:

conveying fuel into the combustion space;

producing microwave energy in a microwave source located outside the combustion space;

injecting the microwave radiation into and uniformly throughout the combustion space with fuel therein in at least one microwave pulse of short duration and of high energy;

preventing formation of plasma by selection of a time interval for injecting of the microwave radiation, of power of the microwave radiation, of pulse duration and of pulse spacing;

absorbing the microwave pulse by the fuel distributed into the combustion space; and

igniting the fuel uniformly over a large space in the combustion space by energy delivered into the fuel due to absorption of the microwave pulse essentially at the same time.

16. (previously presented) A process according to claim 15 wherein

at least one of a number of spaced microwave pulses, power of the microwave pulses, pulse duration and pulse timing is controlled depending on engine operating states and power demands on the engine.

17. (previously presented) A process according to claim 15 wherein the microwave radiation is injected in 1 to 10 spaced microwave pulses.
18. (previously presented) A process according to claim 17 wherein the microwave radiation is injected in 1 to 5 spaced microwave pulses.
19. (previously presented) A process according to claim 15 wherein said microwave pulse has a power between 1 kW and 70 kW.
20. (previously presented) A process according to claim 15 wherein the microwave pulse has a duration between 1 ns and 2 ms.
21. (previously presented) A process according to claim 17 wherein the microwave pulses are spaced between 100 ns and 2 ms.
22. (previously presented) A process according to claim 15 wherein the microwave radiation is injected in 1 to 10 spaced microwave pulses; each microwave pulse has a power between 1 kW and 70 kW; and each microwave pulse has a duration between 1 ns and 2 ms.
23. (previously presented) A process according to claim 22 wherein the microwave radiation is injected in 1 to 5 spaced microwave pulses.

24. (previously presented) A process according to claim 15 wherein the microwave radiation is injected in several spaced microwave pulses of at least one of different power and different pulse duration for leveling temperature increases of the fuel in the combustion space up to an ignition temperature by gradual delivery of energy.

25. (currently amended) A device for igniting combustion of fuel in a combustion space of an engine, comprising:

a microwave source located outside of the combustion space and producing spaced microwave pulses of short duration and high energy; and

a microwave window connected to said microwave source through which the microwave pulses are injected in and uniformly throughout the combustion space of the engine to be absorbed by fuel uniformly in all of the combustion space with temperature of the fuel being increased uniformly by the microwave pulses when absorbed by the fuel due to energy delivery, without forming of plasma by selection of a time interval for injecting the microwave pulses, of power of the microwave pulses, of pulse duration and of pulse spacing, up to an ignition temperature.

26. (previously presented) A device according to claim 25 wherein

the microwave window is mounted on an engine at a combustion chamber thereof.

27. (previously presented) A device according to claim 25 wherein said microwave source is connected to an electric power supply source to deliver electrical pulses to said microwave source converted to the spaced microwave pulses by said microwave source.

28. (previously presented) A device according to claim 25 wherein a coupling between said microwave source and said microwave window transmits the microwave pulses sent from said microwave source to said microwave window, but avoids transmitting microwaves reflected by the combustion space back into said microwave source.

29. (previously presented) A device according to claim 28 wherein said coupler is connected to said microwave source and said microwave window by microwave lines.

30. (previously presented) A device according to claim 29 wherein said coupler comprises first, second and third ports connected to said microwave source, said microwave window and a passive microwave consumer, respectively.

31. (previously presented) A device according to claim 25 wherein said microwave window comprises ceramic material.

32. (previously presented) A device according to claim 25 wherein said microwave window is formed completely of ceramic material.

33. (previously presented) A device according to claim 25 wherein  
said microwave source is connected to said microwave window by a flexible line.
34. (previously presented) A device according to claim 26 wherein  
said engine is one of an Otto engine, a Wankel engine, a spark ignition direct engine and  
a diesel engine in which a fuel-air mixture is ignited in said combustion chamber thereof.
35. (previously presented) A process according to claim 15 wherein  
the microwave radiation is injected into the combustion space in spaced microwave  
pulses.